

SECRET**Combined Monthly Intelligence Review****GREECE****HENLEY**

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2D
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

For month of MAY 1946
Copy No 22

G.S.I.,
H.Q., Land Forces GREECE.

Job 76-780R
Box 284

SECRET

HQ Land Forces GREECE

COMBINED MONTHLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW No 9

CONTENTS

<u>Part I</u>	<u>GENERAL</u>
<u>Part II</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE</u>
	(a) ALBANIA
	(b) JUGOSLAVIA
	(c) BULGARIA
<u>Part III</u>	<u>MILITARY SECURITY and COUNTER - INTELLIGENCE</u>
	(a) General
	(b) German Intelligence Services
	(c) Collaborators
	(d) War Criminals
	(e) KKE, KKM and OZNA activities
	(f) Frontier Control
<u>Part IV</u>	<u>CIVIL SECURITY</u>
	(a) General
	(b) Armed Bands
	(c) Macedonian Autonomist Activities
	(d) Subversive Organisations Left-wing
	(e) Subversive Organisations Right-wing
	Glossary
<u>Part V</u>	<u>POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE</u>
	(a) The Government
	(b) The Assembly
	(c) Debate on the Greek Army
	(d) The Constitutional Question
	(e) Internal Politics
	(f) Economic Intelligence
<u>Part VI</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>

Locations of FS Sections

Y. R. M. Ottwell maj
Lt-Col.
for GSOI (Int).

Distribution as for CMIR(G) No 8. Plus: ISLO Copy No 9 and 59.
Less: 23 Armed Bde No 9. BMM ALBANIA No 59.

PART I

GENERAL

The accent during May was on Law and Order, or rather, on the lack of it. A deterioration was noted at the end of April and this continued into May, to stabilise at the lowest level since the end of the 1944 troubles. The reasons for this deterioration are gone into fully elsewhere in this Review but they may be briefly summed up here. Firstly the onset of summer created climatic conditions appropriate to an outdoor life in the hills. In this respect, as in others, the banditry of this year is a repetition of that of summer 1945. Secondly the political bitterness between the extreme left and rest of Greek public opinion is keener than ever, since the election campaign and results have driven Communism into even sharper isolation. Furthermore, descending from theory to fact, many moderate local civil officials have been replaced by men of more extreme Right-wing views as a consequence of the Populist victory. On the one hand they form an obvious target for Left-wing hatred, on the other these officials tend to prosecute active Communists and intimidate the passive, thereby stirring up even more bitterness. Banditry by the Left is carried on all over GREECE but is chiefly reported from Western MACEDONIA where its eradication is complicated by the additional problem of Autonomism. Right-wing banditry, on the other hand, is almost entirely confined to the PELOPONNESE. The arrest of the most notorious Right-wing bandit-leader, MANGANAS, has had a salutary effect on a form of disorder which by the identity of its political motive with the Government in power was never in danger of becoming a menace to national security. With the Communist-Autonomist banditry of Western MACEDONIA it is another story. The principal targets of the bands are the armed forces of law and order, which indicates a planned campaign, since the object can only be the breaking of military and civil morale by the killing of the maximum number of men of those forces. There is little profit attached to a successful attack on a Gendarmerie station, and much risk. The political motive is obvious. An average per week during the month of four attacks on Gendarmerie stations, and five attacks on Gendarmerie patrols, has been maintained. The Gendarmerie was sorely tried in this particular area, and morale has indeed suffered. There are however no signs of further deterioration at present, though equally are there none of improvement. At the end of the month, however, assistance was given to the Gendarmerie by the Greek army in Western MACEDONIA. This help has taken the form of flag marches and co-ordinated sweeps of large areas. How successful the army will be is not yet known.

In the political field the month has been chiefly notable for the appearance of dissension in both the Populist and Communist parties. In the case of the former the trouble is in the nature of party bickering, and is unlikely to cause a serious rift in the Government front as long as the major issue of the Plebiscite remains to be decided. The dissension in the Communist Party is rather more fundamental and is the outcome of differences of views on high policy. The main body of the Party under ZACHARIADES is faced with a dissident group which desires a more aggressive programme, to be applied forthwith, and which has little faith in the present "intellectual" leadership of the Party. The outcome of this disagreement remains to be seen but at one stage it seemed likely to split Greek Communism, and possibly necessitate intervention from MOSCOW.

The Greek Assembly has been at work and has already endured several tempestuous and undignified sessions which have given the

- 1(a) -

impression that TSALDARIS' government is barely strong enough to control its own party-hotheads. The governments' programme, reduced to essentials, is to hold the Plebiscite as soon as possible, namely on 1 September, and to press Greek National Claims. Economic reconstruction takes a subordinate place, though certain measures are being carried out.

The economic situation has shown little change during the month though towards the end the press began to allege that the cost of living was again showing a tendency to rise. Gold remained steady until the end of the month when sudden fluctuation occurred due to speculation.

The most important feature of the month operationally speaking, has been the considerable reduction of Russian forces in BULGARIA. From the figure of 200,000 plus, estimated in March, it is now clear that the total has dropped to about 150,000 men. The most obvious explanation is the simple one of release and repatriation. A small force of Russians has arrived in MAONASTIR, Southern JUGOSLAVIA; it is considered likely that it may be concerned with forwarding consignments of war material to ALBANIA. The reorganisation of the Albanian Army shows signs of working itself out. The probable result is a force of four divisions two of which will be stationed in the vicinity of the Greek border.

PART II

OPERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

(a) ALBANIA

The fact that considerable reorganisation of the Albanian army has been, and presumably still is, going on, has been mentioned in previous summaries. Lack of reliable and accurate information, however, still prevents a fair and detailed picture of the present structure of the Albanian army being drawn. Recent reports though neither detailed nor completely reliable have, however, given an indication of what may be expected. It must be emphasised that the following information on the reorganised Albanian army, though plausible, can not as yet be accepted as anything more than a working hypothesis.

Information obtained by interrogation of an Albanian deserter suggests that ALBANIA is divided into three military districts or inspectorates; the district boundaries are reported to be as follows - (i) Northern ALBANIA as far SOUTH as ELBASAN (QG51) (ii) KORCE area covering ELBASAN, BERAT (QM37) and LESKOVIC (QM80), (iii) ARGYROKASTRON area covering VALONA, BERAT and LESKOVIC. The same deserter stated that two armies were in existence, 1 Army HQ at TIRANA and 2 Army HQ at ARGYROKASTRON. The armies mentioned presumably approximate to corps and it is felt that the military districts are more likely to be areas of DMP commitments than a basic part of the army organisation. The deserter went on to state that the army was being reduced to three divisions, 1 Division HQ at ARGYROKASTRON, 2 Division HQ at KORCE and 3 Division HQ at TIRANA. There is some circumstantial evidence to support both this layout and the reduction of the army from six to three divisions. Several previous reports have suggested that 5 and 6 Divisions were being disbanded and, as was reported in CMIRG No 8, troops wearing the Yugoslav issued uniform worn by 5 and 6 Division troops had been seen in other divisional units. The locations of 5 and 6 Divisions were never satisfactorily identified after their return from JUGOSLAVIA except for a short period immediately following that move. 1 Division has been located in the ARGYROKASTRON area for some time and there is no evidence for believing that it has moved. More than one source has mentioned that 2 Division is in KORCE and since these sources were all different there is little option other than to accept its presence in that area. If 1 Division is accepted at ARGYROKASTRON and 2 Division at KORCE it is not unreasonable to assume that 3 Division may be in the TIRANA area. Another source states that there is also a 4 Division in the SCUTARI area. The report, however, has not been confirmed either directly or indirectly from other sources. No fresh brigade locations have been received from any sources.

Whether the divisional locations as reported to date are accurate or not, there is at least a prima facie case for believing that the Albanian forces have been reduced to three (possibly four) infantry divisions and one DMP division. Concurrent with such a reorganisation it is not improbable that brigades will be renumbered, an event which will make it difficult to assess the accuracy of any future reports which may be received of brigade locations.

There have been further reports of the arrival in ALBANIA of Russian military equipment. The information, however, is too vague to allow any estimates to be made.

On 15 May, two British warships were fired on by Albanian coastal batteries in the area of SARANDE (QR37) while proceeding through the CORFU channel. The guns were estimated to be approximately four inch in calibre. Twelve rounds were fired but all missed. The fire was not returned.

(b) JUGOSLAVIA

There has been little significant development in 5 Army area during the period under review. 50 Division which was previously reported to have moved NORTH into the BELGRADE area has since been reported as disbanded. Unfortunately the deserters can not give accurate information as to the composition of the division but state it was disbanded in September 1945. However, the statements of deserters, the fact that British sources in BELGRADE can not confirm 50 Division's arrival in that area and the absence of any firm information concerning the division over a long period, all indicate that the division has been disbanded. The disbandment is, therefore, accepted by these headquarters.

Information received concerning 22 Assault division has done little to dispel the obscurity under which this formation lies at the moment. A deserter whose information is second hand and therefore open to doubt, has stated that HQ 22 Division has returned to SKOPLJE but its total divisional strength does not exceed 1000 all ranks. The deserter asserted that the remainder of the troops have been transferred to 2 Proletarian and 48 Divisions. In view of the recent conflicting information concerning 22 Division mentioned in CMIRC No 8, it would appear that 22 Division may also be in the process of disbandment. There is, however, no concrete information to support this.

There has been a spate of reports concerning the arrival of fresh formations in MACEDONIA in which 1 Proletarian, 3, 6, 7 and 9 Divisions have featured. The information is, however, very unreliable and there are, at the moment anyway, no grounds for believing that any of these formations have, in fact, arrived.

It has been reliably reported that some 300 Russian troops have arrived in MONASTIR. It is not known for what purpose these troops have been sent there but it is thought that the most likely explanation is that they are either a training cadre attached to 5 Army or technicians possibly connected with Russian war material being sent to ALBANIA via JUGOSLAVIA. In any event, there are no indications that any Russian units have arrived in any other part of MACEDONIA to which these troops could possibly belong. Should information be received in future that Russian units have arrived in SERBIA or MACEDONIA, then this report might, of course, assume an entirely different significance.

A Yugoslav Stormovik aircraft crash landed near SALONIKA on 30 May. The pilots stated that they had lost their way while flying from NIS to SKOPLJE. Apart from slight topographical inaccuracies, there is, as yet, no reason to doubt this story. It is supported by the urgent desire of the passenger to return to SKOPLJE to get married.

(c) BULGARIA

Some ground confirmation that 10 Division is being disbanded has been received. Though the disbandment of this division has been accepted (see CMIRG No 8), this had been based on Bulgarian and Russian official statements. The report states that 44 and 47 regiments (10 Division) have been withdrawn from their previous locations at KROUMOVGRAD (RG12) and ARDINO (RF73) respectively. 10 regiment was stated to have been reduced to 100 men.

Russian Forces in BULGARIA

There is considerable evidence that the Russian forces have been reduced during April and May. Current estimates now place the numbers remaining in the region of 150,000 as opposed to approximately 218,000 in March. The composition of these is believed to be as follows - three rifle corps controlling between six and nine infantry divisions, one armoured corps, one mechanised corps, three artillery divisions (including one AA division), one, possibly two, independent armoured brigades.

The main concentration areas have not changed. SOFIA, PLOVDIV, KAZANLIK - STARAZAGORA and SLIVEN - YAMBOL areas still support the vast majority of the Russian troops.

PART III

MILITARY SECURITY AND COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

(a) General

- (i) Constant checks are maintained by FS on the security of military installations, especially in the ATHENS area, and recommendations are made for tightening-up of guards. A few serious cases of insecurity have come to light but on the whole all authorities concerned are fully alive to the situation, and strenuous efforts are being made to prevent WD material from finding its way into the open market. One case of suspected sabotage was reported in which a fused mine was found on the edge of an ammunition dump: it was an amateurish attempt and was easily detected and neutralised.
- (ii) Security of information, especially regarding proposed disbandment of units, is somewhat lax, and all ranks would appear to merit censure.
- (iii) No direct attacks on British troops have been reported, but the KKE propaganda campaign continues at full blast. Any incident which can possibly be magnified into a major misdemeanour is given exaggerated prominence in the Left-wing Press, especially in the SALONIKA area. The purpose is always to urge the withdrawal of the British forces, but in one instance violent action by the people was threatened if alleged abuses were not discontinued. Many of the allegations have been investigated and found to contain the merest grain of truth, though some have been entirely fictitious. A new line was attempted on 8 May when leaflets in English were distributed to some British troops in the ATHENS area: the troops were reminded of the urgent need of young men at home for the tasks of reconstruction, they were told British arms were being used to rob the Greeks of their independence, and they were urged to leave the Greeks to themselves and return home. But no practical suggestions to achieve these ends were offered. Then later in the month a show was produced at an ATHENS music-hall featuring some heavy-handed propaganda against British troops: it was quite well received by a full house, but the presence of several British soldiers in the audience excited no special interest. There are in fact no indications that this propaganda drive is achieving any marked success, and in general the attitude of most Greeks towards the British forces is tolerant and often cordial.

(b) German Intelligence Services

Nothing new to report under this heading.

German IS Agents

- (i) Reference CMIRG for March 46, (Part III, para b(i)). The Greek General Staff has been unable to trace any of the German Intelligence Agents mentioned in a report sent to them by the Allied Military Authorities.

/6.....

(ii) Arthur SEITZ

In co-operation with the Deuxieme Bureau of the Greek General Staff, a number of persons connected with SEITZ were interrogated with the result that no further light has been thrown on the real reason behind his arrival in GREECE. It is hoped however that within the next month the investigation will have reached the stage when it can be finally decided whether or not SEITZ is of security interest and if the object of his arrival in GREECE was the re-organisation of a subversive movement in favour of future German interests.

The Greek General Staff are continuing the interrogation of SEITZ.

(c) Collaborators

(i) ELINI MAC and her daughter LILY

Reference CMIRG for above-named Part III (d).

The above were tried on the 28 May 46 by the Collaborators Court and acquitted on the grounds of insufficient evidence.

(ii) IOANNIS AIVADOLOU @ BASIL @ JEAN POTIE

The above-named who was paymaster of an ABWEHR EINS HEER stay-behind espionage group was tried by Court Martial together with the members of the group. The Court passed the following sentences on 15 May 46:

I. AIVADOLOU	Death.	
E. PANTIRIS @ JACK	Life imprisonment.	
D. MONIS @ MOUSA	15 years imprisonment.	
C. KOSSIADIS @ HASR, W/T Op	10 years imprisonment.	
Lt. D. DIMAS @ PETROS, informer	Cashiered and 10 years imprisonment.	
A. TSIROPOULOS @ TELLO, W/T Op		} Acquired through insufficient evidence.
D. PANTIRIS @ FILIOS, W/T Op		
D. APOSTOLOU @ ANER (Not connected with the AIVADOLOU Group)		

(iii) DIENSTELLE 3000. (SD)

The Special Collaborators Court, after proceedings lasting 20 days, passed the following sentences on members of the above-named organisation:

Th. YACOUMIDES.	Death.
Dim. TSILIBIS.	} Sentenced to death in absentia.
P. SIDERIDIS.	
G. ZACHAROPOULOS.	
K. FAKALOS.	Life imprisonment.
G. SIDERIDIS.	Life imprisonment.
Ant. KARAFATIDIS.	12 years imprisonment in absentia.
Ant. KANAVATSOLOU.	10½ years imprisonment.
D. STATHOPOULOS.	8 years imprisonment.
G. DELARNOF.	20 years imprisonment.
Armandos FAKINER.	15 years imprisonment.
G. SPYROU.	12 years imprisonment.

G. TSIMBOUNIS.	12 years imprisonment.
Ant. ANTYPAS.	12 years imprisonment.
I. ANGELITIS	12 years imprisonment.

All the above were members of the BUND organisation working under the notorious Alexandros AGYNORAS, the head of the Greek BUND, who is still a fugitive from justice.

(iv) GOGOS Group

Court proceedings have commenced on the above-named group which consisted of HADJINICOLAOU Apostolos, PSARRIDIS Efstathios, PAPALIAKOS Dimitrios, KARAVITIS Ioannis, APOSTOLIDIS Atrides, IMBRAIMOGLU Petros. This group was organised by GOGOS the Albanian, to act as a stay-behind espionage group. The trial continues.

(v) BACHAUER Bros.- Alexandros, Ioannis, and Antonios.

The trial of the above named has commenced. They are accused of collaboration with the Germans. Ioannis and Antonios B. were arrested by the Greek Authorities for espionage soon after the outbreak of war, but were released when the Germans entered GREECE.

(vi) Collaborators tried at KHAIKIS

In recent weeks the trials of 10 collaborators have been held at KHAIKIS. Four defendants were found NOT guilty and the rest guilty. One received 20 years imprisonment and the other sentences varying from 2 to 6 years.

(vii) Collaborators tried at EDHESSA.

During a recent session of the Collaborators Court at EDHESSA, 12 persons were tried in their absence on charges of collaboration with the Bulgars. All were sentenced to death and their property confiscated. All the accused knowing they would be called for trial fled from their villages on 11 May 46.

(d) War Criminals

Trial of KALABRIT and RAVALI

The Council for the defense and the Public Prosecutor have now closed their cases. The Court is expected to pronounce judgement at its next sitting at 1800 hours on 10 June 46.

(e) KKE, KKM, and OZMA activities

(i) An unconfirmed report states that forty Greek-speaking Yugoslavs have recently been despatched from JUGOSLAVIA to SALONIKA. They are said to receive instructions from an OZMA official in DEVDELIJA (GLVGELI) by courier. Beyond a vague assertion of KKEKIM connections, nothing is reported of their aims.

Investigations are proceeding.

/8.....

(ii) The IOANNIS MARCOPOULOS Case

The following is a summary of the interrogation carried out by the Aliens Centre SALONIKA, in espionage case of I. MARCOPOULOS 28 Mar 46. Parts of this case were mentioned in CMIRG No. 6 Part III para b, and CMIRG No. 7 Part III.b.

Further details are now available on Alexos KEHAYAS alias KIAEF alias TAFIS alias TRAIKOS, the civilian head of OZNA in GEVGELI and a Communist who had been persecuted for his political leanings in GEVGELI during the Bulgarian regime there. He joined TITO's Army and served as Kapetanios (Kommissar) in a Military Unit. He held an important position in GEVGELI after the departure of the Germans, being mainly employed in recruiting persons speaking Greek and having ties with GREECE, training them in espionage and directing their operations in GREECE against Greek and British Forces.

/despatched

In late Feb 45, and after a period of training in espionage KIAEF / Ioannis MARCOPOULOS and Haraclis KOURMOUZIS to SALONIKA.

Both the above-named, after being briefed and provided with funds, left GEVGELI on 28 Feb 45. On the same day they arrived at the Greek village of EVZONOI (Q059). MARCOPOULOS had been instructed to contact Maria ANASTASSIADOU an agent of OZNA already established in SALONIKA.

In SALONIKA the agents separated, KOURMOUZIS went to ASVESTOCHORION and MARCOPOULOS remained in SALONIKA. KOURMOUZIS returned to SALONIKA where, in conjunction with MARCOPOULOS he compiled their first report. This report contained information on Greek and British Forces, their state of discipline and ration scales, the arrival and departure of merchant shipping and warships and also the Government's policy towards Communism.

Apart from the information collected by the two men, Marika ANASTASSIADOU, sister of Alexos KIAEF, was also collecting similar information which was passed to MARCOPOULOS who then arranged for its transmission to GEVGELI.

The activities of the MARCOPOULOS - KOURMOUZIS - PEIDIS - ANASTASSIADOU group continued until about 20 April 45 when its operation was terminated by the arrest of Athanasios PEIDIS and Marika ANASTASSIADOU on a charge of espionage. Meanwhile MARCOPOULOS and KOURMOUZIS, the principal members, remained free to continue their work through another link.

In Sep 45, Christos KOSTRAKIS, a pro-Bulgarian from GOUMENITSA and KKM member, joined the spy ring. KOSTRAKIS was employed as a courier between SALONIKA and GOUMENITSA.

Certain of I. MARCOPOULOS' activities attracted attention and led to the arrest by the Greek authorities of

/9.....

MARCOPOULOS, ANASTASSIADOU, LIAPIS and KOURMOUZIS.
It has been established that the above spy ring was acting on KIAEF's instructions on behalf of TITO's regime. The Higher Direction came from a "Special Service" (OZNA interested in the collection of information on GREECE and the British Forces in GREECE.

The case has now been referred for trial to the Permanent Military Tribunal in SALONIKA.

(f) Frontier Control

- (i) Greek III Corps have received reliable information that more arms are being brought into GREECE from BULGARIA. Frontier Control is not satisfactory at present but the Greek authorities state that measures have been taken to counter these activities.
- (ii) An extreme Right-wing sympathiser, who has just returned from a journey in MACEDONIA, volunteered the information that he had observed hundreds of Slavs to be entering GREECE from JUGOSLAVIA. These Slavs, he states, are urging the Greek Left-wing to start a new revolution. At a meeting that took place in a town WEST of SALONIKA, out of 50 persons present 10 were Slavs.
- (iii) On 1 May 46 forty Greek refugees presented themselves at the Frontier post at KROUSTALOPIYI N.3255. They stated that they had been ordered to leave ALBANIA and gave information regarding the serious political and economic situation in which the Greek minority in SOUTH ALBANIA exists.

PART IV

CIVIL SECURITY

(a) General

The state of law and order in GREECE has remained at an unsatisfactory level throughout the month after the sharp decline in late April. The main causes suggested in CMIRG number 8 have been further corroborated, particularly in a recourse to more extreme policies by both Right and Left. The general boundary between Right and Left-wing initiative in terrorism remains the Northern edge of the Plain of THESSALY, but SOUTH of this line there has been a recent increase in Left-wing banditry. The number of isolated murders has been high in all parts of the country, but at the same time the number of arrests by the authorities has also shown a marked increase. Furthermore releases under the Amnesty Law of December 1945 are now negligible and the prison population is increasing rapidly. Indications of the Government's concern for law and order are shown not only in frequent official statements but also in two important measures taken on 3 May: the first of these was an order to put under police surveillance the offices and other premises of all extremist organisations. This measure does not, however, appear to have had much noticeable effect. More far-reaching was the order re-introducing local extra-judicial Public Security Committees in each province. These Committees are empowered to exile summarily to another part of GREECE any persons suspected of banditry or of giving assistance to bandits. Since this measure has been accompanied by an almost universal replacement of moderate local officials by men of more extreme Right-wing persuasion, there is no doubt that its application will be primarily directed against communists. The Committee in VEROIA (QN23) has already started functioning for the troubled province of IMATHIA, and has exiled some members of the Left-wing in NAOUSA (QN14) to an AEGEAN island. Naturally the Left brand these measures as "fascism".

(b) Armed Bands

In the PELOPONNESI Right-wing terrorist activity was most marked in the first half of the month: initiative in the use of force in the province of MESSINIA was almost entirely with bandits claiming an affiliation with the 'X' organisation. The culmination was on 11 May when a band 100 strong descended on MEGALOPOLIS (VH99), for the purpose of terrorising local communists, and on 15 May when MANGANAS, the local brigand chief, seized control of PILOS (VH53) and executed three Left-wing prisoners who were being held in custody by the Gendarmerie. In spite of this open flouting of their authority, the local Gendarmerie appear to have been not only powerless but even unwilling to control Right-wing excesses. On 22 May, however, MANGANAS was arrested near PILOS, largely through the insistence of the British Police Mission, and a quieter period ensued: local terrorism is likely to continue but on a less ambitious scale for want of his leadership. A number of small Left-wing bands of more limited potential are reported near SPARTA (VJ15), in the Right-wing stronghold of MESSINIA, and in the mountains of Northern ARCADIA.

In Central GREECE there has been less open banditry, except that the Right-wing bandit KALAMBALIKIS is now reported to have resumed activity on Mount PELION (QT80) after an alleged visit to ATHENS for "orders". On the other hand the initiative in damping Left-wing activities has passed rather to the local authorities: this is noticeable in the island of EUBOEIA, in the LAMIA (QY35) district, and particularly in VOLOS (QT70). On 19 May in that town a large number of Greek soldiers, using firearms for intimidation, was involved in breaking up the EAM offices and injuring some EAM members: even some of the Right-wing in the town regarded this incident as giving an undue handle for Left-wing allegations of oppression, especially as the Gendarmerie did not intervene. Even so a renewal of Left-wing banditry in Central GREECE is to be noted by the appearance of small Left-wing bands in the mountains NORTH and WEST of LAMIA and on Mount PARNASSUS (QY41). And the bands based on OSSA (QT65) and OLYMPUS (QT38) have been pressing their raids SOUTH into the plain towards LARISA (QT33).

In Northern GREECE the most important feature of the continued Left-wing banditry has been a series of attacks on isolated Gendarmerie posts: the average for the month of May was four such attacks per week. Apart from an attack on a post at VARDHOS (QP11) in KHALKIDIKI on 17 May and one near KILKIS (QO88) on 7 May, all these attacks have taken place in or near the mountain chain OLYMPUS-VERMION-KAIMAKCHALAN, or in the remoter parts of Western MACEDONIA near FLORINA (QN66), Lake PRESPA (QN36) and GREVENA (QS59). In addition there has been a number of clashes between Gendarmerie patrols and groups of bandits in the same areas, at the rate of about five per week. Latterly in fact the initiative has apparently been rather more with the Gendarmerie who have increased patrolling and sweeping operations: the VERMION area was somewhat quieter in the second fortnight of May. On the other hand the districts further NORTH, from VITSI (QN55) to GREVENA, have shown much increased activity. Although the Gendarmerie continually complain of inadequate equipment, and it is true that most reports mention bandits as using automatic weapons, yet the security measures being taken have not been ineffective and the situation cannot be considered to be out of hand. But civilian morale remains low, and no general improvement in security can yet be recorded. A further factor which may have important consequences in the future is the possibility of arms being issued to Nationalist civilians in areas particularly infested by Left-wing bands. An organisation known as EMA (ETHNIKOS MAKEDONIKOS AGON - National Macedonian Struggle) is reported to be forming in the FLORINA area with the object of obtaining arms from the authorities to combat Left-wing banditry. Other reports indicate that lists of reliable Nationalists are being drawn up, and that the matter is being discussed in high official circles. A decision to arm these people would not conflict with the present trends of Government policy, but it would naturally have a strong adverse propaganda value both among ill-wishers abroad and also among moderate elements within GREECE.

(c) Macedonian Autonomist Activities

No major developments in the activities of NOF/KKM have been reported, but the previously noted trends continue. The arrest and interrogation of two bandits near FLORINA on 11 May confirmed that the main centres of Autonomist "resistance"

are on KAIMAKHALAN and VITSI and that reinforcements are being provided from JUGOSLAVIA. The breach between KKM and KKE, however, appears to be by no means healed: it is reflected on a high level in the dissensions within KKE outlined elsewhere in this Review, and a local instance is reported from FLORINA where the KKE district leader, while deploring to a Field Security representative the recent deterioration in public security, was anxious to emphasise that the troubles were not instigated by KKE but by the Autonomists. Even so the edict apparently issued at the Communist Congress in PRAGUE in April 46 would still seem to hold good: the activities of KKE and KKM were to be co-ordinated with a primarily political objective in line with Soviet foreign policy; the immediate aim was to use the local terrorist resources of both parties to produce a maximum of civil disorder for use as a propaganda weapon during the period of international discussions. It is therefore considered likely that local terrorism in MACEDONIA will continue and may increase. On the other hand the co-ordination and organisation of guerilla forces has not, as yet, reached a sufficiently advanced stage for a widespread coup or an autonomist secession to be attempted.

- (d) Subversive Organisations - Left-wing (See Glossary at end of this part of the Review).
- (1) KKE - General

Government action against the party - the closing of some KKE offices, the establishment of local security committees throughout the country, the arrest and trial of KKE members in PATRAS - has forced KKE to initiate the most stringent internal security measures, and to draw up detailed plans for maintaining the whole party system underground, as it existed during the German occupation. At the same time the purge of the Party, which was reported last month, continues to exercise ZACHARIADES, who hopes in this way to prevent the spread of serious differences which have arisen between himself and a group of dissident ex-ELAS capitanei, and which threatens to weaken and split the party. (Details of this interesting development are reported elsewhere in this summary).

- (ii) MAZIKI LAIKI APTOAMYNIA (MLA), CHADES APTOAMYNAS (OA), SYNERGEIAS KROUSSEOS (SK).

To meet the dangers of the present situation, the functions of MLA, OA and SK have been broadened to a point where they are now clearly seen to be the party's most essential executive arm. The new version of an underground ELAS, adopted to meet the threat to the party of suppression, is being developed in all districts of the country as fast as possible. Activities include reprisals against Nationalists, provocation of violent incidents for propaganda purposes, and the carrying out of the party purge.

In the PELOPONNESE, where KKE fortunes are at a low ebb, the system is being gradually established though no figures of the numbers of groups are available. In SALONIKA, where the number of OA's was last reliably reported at the end of March as 125, there have been several recent cases of MLA reprisal actions against Nationalists, and MLA playing a supervising part in the local purge. In ATHENS the number of OA groups is reliably given as 208 at the end of April, and in KOP at the end of March as 36. A KKE regional report from CRETE

gives the number of OA groups in the island as 75 functioning mainly in CIANIA, RETHYMNO, HERAKLION, LASITHI, AGHIOS NICOLAOS and one or two other towns. There appears to be little OA activity in the villages as yet.

In order to be able to bring groups rapidly into action a special liaison section is attached to each KOB. This section is responsible for knowing the location of each group and on receiving information from the "Secret Underground Mechanism" of the Party (the "I" Branch, controlled by AGIT-PROP), must bring the groups immediately to the point of defence, or attack, or wherever it has been decided to provoke an incident. The technique of provocation as it develops provides excellent rehearsals for future genuine defence operations.

In the operational scheme of things, the SK, acting as shock troop scouts, should apparently be first on the spot to provoke and defend. The OA are then called into play, and general 'crowd' support is forthcoming from MLA. All members of SK and OA are KKE members and ex-ELAS, OPLA, or EP members. For MLA the net is cast wider and includes non-KKE members and sympathizers.

(iii) OPK (ORGANOSIS PERIFROURISTIS KOMMATOS (Communist Party Security Organisation))

A Branch of this political security organisation has now been established in each Ahtis in ATHENS and it is intended that 'saturation' of the entire KOA system will be attained by the further establishment of an OPK branch in every KOB.

(iv) KOSSA

Following PB directives early in the month an enlightenment committee for officers has been set up to function in KOSSA under the title "EPITROPI DIAFOTISIS AXIOMATIKON (EDA)". This body is responsible for issuing special bulletins to all KOSSA officers.

An attempt is being made to obtain the reinstatement in the Active List 'A' of those members of this organisation who are at present on the Inactive List 'B'. Officers who are considered to have 'mild' records are encouraged to pose as converts to 'conservative' views and are even permitted to declare their sympathy with the present regime in order to get into the good graces of the authorities. More unusual methods have been introduced to keep pace with the rapid reorganisation of the Greek Armed Forces by the British Military Missions, on allegedly 'Monarcho-Fascist' lines. It is clear that KOSSA is to lie dormant for an incubationary period, gathering strength without arousing suspicion, until it is required to come out into the open in extreme emergency.

(e) Subversive Organisations - Right-wing

(i) ETHNIKON KOMMA XITON ('X' Organisation).

Divisions in the 'X' Organisation as to future policy still continue as reported last month. The disillusionment of GRIVAS after his failure in the elections and his reliably reported intention to place himself in the background of the organisation has not been borne out by later reports which

indicate at least that he is now determined to try to keep the leadership of EKK as a political party. He is now reported to be purging the organisation of fainthearts and those who have obviously lost confidence in his leadership.

(ii) EPITROPI SYNTONISMOU ETHNIKOU AGONOS (ESEA)
(Committee for Co-ordination of the National Struggle)

There has been a marked increase in activity of this group of extreme Right-wing politicians many of whom were holders of office under the Metaxist regime. The President of the Committee is MARKEZINIS, Chief of the King's Political Bureau. Other active leaders, who are known for undesirable political activities in Middle East, are ALEKOS KANELLOPOULOS ex EON chief and NICOLOUDIS ex Minister of Press and Propaganda under METAXAS and later Greek Minister to the Government of SOUTH AFRICA.

The group is said to be organising itself on Communist lines and is forming sub-committees in all main towns of GREECE. They publish two newspapers ERGATIKI SIMAIA (Worker's Flag) and AGROTIKI EXORMISIS (Agrarian Leadership).

Glossary

MLA = "Mass Popular Self-Defence".

OA = "Self Defence Groups".

SK = "Attack Groups".

OPK = "Party Security Organisation".

KOA = Communist Organisation for ATTICA.

KOP = Communist Organisation for PIRAEUS.

KOB = Communist Basic Organisation - ie Cell.

PART V

POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

(a) The Government

There have been no major cabinet changes or appointments during the period under review. The vacant governor generalships of the AEGEAN islands, EPIRUS, Eastern MACEDONIA, Western MACEDONIA, Central MACEDONIA and CRETE have been filled by M. BOUBOULIS, PAPADOVIANNIS, VASILAKOS, DALIPIS, TSIRIDIS and General VOUTSOS respectively. All these governors except TSIRIDIS are Populist deputies and none is of any significance or eminence. M. KALKANIS was appointed Minister of Interior on 14 May to replace M. John THEOTOKIS who relinquished the post to become president of the new assembly.

(b) The Assembly

The new assembly was opened by the Regent on 13 May. Despite earlier reports that the extremist Right-wing elements intended to conduct anti-Regency demonstrations on this occasion apart from a few cries of "long live the King", the proceedings were dignified and the Regent was given a good reception. In fact there was little to presage the stormy scenes which occurred in subsequent debates. The Regent made a speech from the Throne in which the most important points were national claims and the announcement that the plebiscite would be held on 1 September. The formula used was "Plebiscite for the return of the King". This phrase came in for some considerable criticism in later debates.

On 14 May M. John THEOTOKIS was elected President of the Assembly having secured 192 of 343 votes cast. On 16 May M. LEONARDOS (National Liberal), M. THEOPHANOPOULOS (Populist) and M. MIKHALOPOULOS (National Reformist) were elected vice-presidents.

On 17 May M. ESALDARIS made the official government declaration of policy in which he referred to all important points relating to outstanding domestic issues, foreign relations and national claims.

The debate on the governments' policy continued from 18 to 24 May and was marked by scenes of turbulence which could at times only be described as pandemonium. The disturbances were largely caused by Populist back benchers who repeatedly indulged in violent personal attacks on their opponents. At times even spectators joined with applause and comments in this political field day. Strong protests were made by the leaders of the opposition; M. KANELLOPOULOS stated on 23 May that it was becoming increasingly difficult for the Opposition to exercise its normal function; M. PAPANDREOU at the end of the debate expressed, rather ironically it is felt, his satisfaction that the governments policy had been so widely debated and his distress at the number of incidents which had occurred and he emphasised the necessity for raising the standard of debate. So great was the demand by Populist deputies to speak that a resolution limiting each deputy to fifteen minutes had to be passed but even so there was still much wild speaking. M. DARVERIS, for example, had to be

/16.....

stopped by the Prime Minister when he was in the middle of a violent tirade against the Regent. The Populist veteran M. KOULOUMVAKIS, whose intransigence is reminiscent of the old Irish-American school, asked that the King be brought back without a plebiscite, denounced British intervention and wondered why the British had not used starvation as a weapon to blackmail GREECE.

There was considerable discussion on the moral responsibility for the 4th of August Regime. On 22 May there was a walk out of all Republican and EKE deputies when M. DIMITRATOS, METAXIST Minister of Labour, took the floor. Strangely enough, there was little public interest evinced in this post-mortem on the METAXAS regime but there has been some dismay shown over the number of incidents which occurred in the Assembly, the realisation of which seems to have had a beneficial effect on the hot headedness of some deputies.

The debate on the governments' policy closed on 24 May with a vote of confidence. Of 344 deputies present, 209 voted for, 113 against while 22 deputies, mostly drawn from EKE, abstained.

(c) Debate on the Greek Army

On 27 May, a debate was held on the governments' policy with regard to the Greek armed forces in which the Government as a whole and M. MAVROMIHALIS, the War Minister, in particular came in for considerable criticism especially from General MANETTAS, War Minister in SOFOULIS' government. The main bones of contention were the position of the Supreme Army Council and a number of decrees which were issued before the Assembly was convened which involved considerable switching round of senior appointments and the placing on the retired list of a large number of senior officers. The opposition allege that the Supreme Army Council have been endowed with dictatorial powers quite incompatible with the constitution. General MANETTAS stated that the Army Council, thanks to M. MAVROMIHALIS, was in the hands of the extreme Right and he demanded that a new Army Council be set up which would draft plans on Army matters which would be submitted to the Assembly for ratification. Speaking in general terms M. MANETTAS pointed out that the senior Air Force officers recently removed from their posts were the men who had organised the Greek Air Force in the Middle EAST (see CMIRG No 8), he continued that the Army commanders who have been relieved of their appointments were the organisers of the Greek Army after the December revolution. This, of course, was a rather sweeping statement and is not altogether true as the promotions of Generals SPIRIDOTOPOULOS and VENTIRIS show. Criticism of M. MAVROMIHALIS was not, however, confined to the Opposition but also expressed by certain Populist deputies. M. TSALDARIS has denied all allegations that Right-wing military cliques have had any influence on the recent Army changes or that certain military elements are imbued with dictatorial tendencies. It is felt that an important factor in the opposition to M. MAVROMIHALIS' plans is personal jealousy since some of the appointments have been made without strict regard to seniority.

The debate was finally adjourned till 7 June.

(d) The Constitutional Question

The plebiscite date has been fixed for 1 September. The date itself has not come in for criticism lately as much as two other points, the formula to be adopted and the revision of electoral rolls. According to the speech from the Throne the question to be put before the Greek nation is whether or not H M the King should return. Republican circles have denounced this phrasing as a loop hole for the Royalists should the plebiscite go against the King, alleging that the Royalists would, in such an event, claim that the actual question of constitutional monarchy or republic was still outstanding. The Republicans and General ZERVAS wished the plebiscite to decide categorically on the regime alone. M. GONATAS speaking as Leader of the National Liberal party stated that it was futile to argue on such an academic point since it was obvious that should the vote go against the King it would also go against the Monarchy. The government has also stated that the electoral rolls will be revised by mid August under the auspices of an Anglo-American observer mission. The French government declined an invitation to participate in this mission. The Centre and Left parties have stated that revision of electoral rolls is not sufficient, complete recompilation must be carried out. The present standard of law and order has also been raised by the opposition as a factor which unless drastically improved will militate against a fair plebiscite. On 12 May, EAM and the Left Liberal group published a statement condemning Britain and USA for forsaking their obligations undertaken in November 45 and alleging that this was an obvious attempt to set up a neo-fascist regime in GREECE. The government appear determined to stick to the date, the formula and the revision of electoral rolls. There will however, be another debate of the constitutional question when the resolution concerning the plebiscite is brought up before the Assembly.

(e) Internal Politics.

The proceedings in the Assembly have shown that cracks are appearing in the Populist party front, a fact which is becoming increasingly obvious to the general public. There is a strong group centred round the cabinet ministers which is moderate in outlook but a considerable proportion of the Populist rank and file are adopting extremist and intransigent views. The recent debate on the governments' policy with regard to the Greek army aroused opposition even among the Populist deputies themselves. Other reports indicate that behind its facade of unity the government is threatened by a number of differences of opinion. Discussion is reported from two quarters firstly among the Populists and their collaborators, the National Liberals and the Reformists and secondly within the party itself. The differences between M. TSALDARIS, M. GONATAS and M. ALEXANDRIS are alleged to lie in the fact that neither M. GONATAS nor M. ALEXANDRIS are satisfied with the number of political appointments which the Populists have allotted them. A report states that the main groups from which potential dissension may arise are centred round the following personalities: M. MAVROMIHALIS, M.S. STEFANOPOULOS, M. George STRATOS and M. MARKEZINIS. As has been said in previous reviews the Populists are particularly addicted to personality groups and it is thought that it is the thwarted ambitions of some of the private followers of the main Populist personalities which may in the end cause

rifts in the Populist front. It is not anticipated, however, that serious differences will arise at this juncture especially with the plebiscite in the offing and the overriding necessity for making the most of the present Royalist parliamentary majority.

An interesting development is the attitude of General ZERVAS' EKE towards the government. Recent events during debate have shown that EKE is following the policy of the EPE leaders and has by no means allied itself with the Populists which might have been expected from ZERVAS' pre-election royalist tendencies. The actual reason for ZERVAS' present attitude can not be definitely stated. It may arise from pique, in view of the fact that no amicable basis for election collaboration was arrived at with the Populists. ZERVAS, however, was in 1935 a Venizelist and even when he first formed a guerrilla force during the occupation corresponded more closely to republican nationalism than to royalism. There has been some rumour, too, to the effect that General ZERVAS might join forces with Sophocles VENIZELOS.

In the Republican camp there has been little political activity apart from continued criticism of the government and, in some cases, of Britain as well. General PLASTIRAS has put out feelers for the formation of a new Republican union but this has not evoked much response.

KKE efforts to form a pan democratic front have continued with a marked lack of success. It is reported that KAFANDARIS has been approached again on this subject but KKE received no satisfaction. If reports received are true it would appear that KKE is, in fact, losing ground on this project. A source has stated that SVOLOS is ready to break away from EAM and ally himself and SKELD with the Liberals. It is reliably reported that General OTHONAIOS, President of the Democratic Clubs, is likely to follow SVOLOS if such a step is taken.

By far the most interesting political development which has occurred during the month has been supplied by KKE. A divergence of opinion within KKE has, according to a reliable source, reached a degree comparable with that which occurred in 1930/31 when the Comintern was forced to intervene. The present rift is centred on Ioannis PETZOPOULOS, the wealthy owner of a large printing works, who, though not a proper member of KKE has held KKE appointments and wields considerable influence within the party. PETZOPOULOS has been strongly criticising both KKE policy and the leadership of the party. He is alleged to have described the policy as inconsistent and one of daily directives and empty threats, and the leadership as that of non combattants and political failures. In fact the PETZOPOULOS group wants action and does not consider that ZACHARIADES or other political intellectual members are capable of leading the party in this stage. Behind PETZOPOULOS are a large number of the political commissars of ELAS and leading military personalities. Of the commissars Kapetans ORESTES (2 ELAS Division) and ZACHARIAS (ELAN) are the more important while Generals SARAFIS, DAKIRDSIS and NASIS are believed to be lending their support. The PETZOPOULOS group consider that ZACHARIADES due to his absence from GREECE during the occupation, December revolution and VARKIZA agreement periods is quite unsuited to lead the party and they resent his dictatorial methods. They wish to see all KKE anti-terrorist organisations lead by military personalities, a stepping up of anti-Right-wing activity and the formation of andarte groups operating and led as they were during the German occupation.

/19.....

It is evident that ZACHARIADES regards PETZOPOULOS as a most serious threat to his leadership and has taken exceptional measures to secure his position in recent meetings of KKE organisations. He has succeeded in obtaining a general condemnation of PETZOPOULOS but appears to be afraid to take similar action against PETZOPOULOS' supporters at this stage owing to the popularity many of them enjoy within the party. The rift within the KKE is still very serious and one source considers that the crisis may be referred to MOSCOW.

The Left-wing attitude towards any measures the government take remains one of unrelenting opposition. The Left have begun their campaign to win the plebiscite by ordering all their supporters to register in the new electoral lists.

(f) Economic Intelligence

On 7 May the government gave its approval to the repeal of law 424 (see CHIRG No 8) and made a number of amendments to existing labour legislation. Though these measures were violently criticised by the Left and strike action threatened only a few minor strikes did, in fact, materialise. Though the repeal of law 424 has been approved no action has, as yet, been taken by the employers in the way of dismissing workers who are redundant but due to law 424 were retained in employment. Reliable sources state that although KKE strike threats have not materialised to any significant degree up to date, there is every indication that KKE proposes to continue its attempts to use the strike weapon to combat the governments' economic measures.

MAKRIS, leader of the National Reformist Labour movement, is reported to be appealing to get the ministerial order under which the 8th Pan hellenic Workers Congress was constituted annulled as unconstitutional. MAKRIS, it will be remembered, instructed all Nationalist workers to boycott the congress and, therefore, has no representative in the central committee of GSEE (General Confederation of Greek Workers) which is now dominated by ERGAS. KKE has instructed all Left-wing Trades Unions to initiate strike action in the event of MAKRIS achieving any success and address protests to the Greek authorities and foreign Trades Union organisations.

The price of the gold pound in the open market was maintained at approximately 135,500 drachma till 24 May. The Bank of GREECE which had been selling gold pounds at a fixed price between 135/136,000 drachma reduced its price to 125/130,000 drachma on 24 May. It was announced at the same time that all transactions in gold were to be conducted through the Bank of GREECE and no restrictions were to be imposed on buyers. The revised rate had the effect of lowering the price of gold in the open market but increasing the sales by the Bank. There have been some minor panics in the Bourse due to slightly alarmist statements made during debates in the Assembly.

The proposed Greek Commercial Corporation, a state-financed trading concern, has come in for considerable criticism from political and commercial circles. The charter of this corporation was signed by M.S. STEFANOPOULOS and General CLARK of the British Economic Mission on 26 May. The critics of the scheme allege that it will be a monopoly, it will eliminate private enterprise, and will tie Greek economy to British

interest. The Charter, however, has yet to be ratified by the Assembly.

(g) Foreign Relations

National claims have again been receiving considerable public attention. The fact that Greek claims were shelved at the PARIS conference was disappointing enough but the fact that the Bulgarian claim to THRACE was dealt with in the same way, instead of being dismissed as the impertinence the Greeks regard it, aroused considerable indignation. M. TSALDARIS' reference to Greek claims in his policy speech in the Assembly was approved by the opposition leaders. It is proposed to send an all-party delegation to present the Greek case to the peace conference. The government has, however, been criticised for its slowness in appointing this delegation. M. TSALDARIS stated that he wished to wait until M. DRAGOUMIS, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs who returned on 31 May had reported on his activities at the PARIS conference and in ENGLAND.

A resolution was passed in the Assembly on 29 May that a memorandum be sent to GREECE's great allies denouncing the impertinence of Bulgarian claims against GREECE.

M. TSALDARIS has re-affirmed that all matters relating to Greek claims on CYPRUS would be handled privately between the government and H.M.G.

PART VI

MISCELLANEOUS

Location of FS Sections

5 FSS	HQ	PSYCHICO	(ATHENS)
	Det	PHALERON	(VE34)
		KHALKIS	(VE29)
		LEVADIA	(VD69)
		LAMIA	(QY35)
		VOLOS	(QT70)
		LARISSA	(QT33)
24 FSS	HQ	ATHENS	
	Dets	ATHENS	
94 FSS	HQ	CORINTH	(VD64)
	Det	PATRAS	(VD68)
		TRIPOLIS	(VD10)
		PIRAEUS PORT	
268 FSS	HQ	KAVALLA	(RL16)
	Det	DRAMA	(QP99)
		SERRES	
		ALEXANDROUPOLIS	(RM35)
290 FSS	HQ	SALONIKA	
	Det	KILKIS	(Q088)
		VERROIA	(Q023)
		NAOUSSA	(Q014)
		FLORINA	(QN66)